

MINUTES OF HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
2010 Budget Final Adoption  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

GENERALIZED SUMMARY

President Levine called to order the 2010 Budget Final Adoption meeting at 8:30:23 a.m. Auditor Dawn Coverdale called roll: Rick McKinney, Meredith Carter, Judy Levine, John Hiatt, Jim Belden and Brad Beaver. Councilor Steve Schwartz was not in attendance. A quorum was declared.

8:30:52 Councilor Beaver moved to approve public hearing minutes of September 2, 2009. Councilor Carter seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

8:31:05 Councilor Hiatt moved to suspend rules and not read every line item. Councilor Beaver seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

8:31:26 Councilor Beaver moved to accept all 144 forms. Councilor McKinney seconded motion. At this time Councilor Carter reported on the Finance Committee recommendations: 1) Departments that have revenue generating fund(s) utilize said funds to fullest potential; 2) Voluntarily cut 3% of 2010 budgets (cuts should be genuine and not something that the department will come back and request in 2010 ie: postage); 3) No new vehicles except for patrol and snow plows; 4) Performance Increases (adhere to list); 5) Vacancies (EO and DH must seek approval for new hires from County Council); 6) Directive from Council to Auditor (not to take additional request for County General, Health or Parks Department) Motion to accept 144 forms carried 6-0.

8:45:38 Councilor Beaver recommended that the Council adopt the budget as is and implement the Finance Committee recommendations as stated by Councilor Carter except for Directive from the Council to the Auditor to not take additional request. Councilor McKinney interjected that the departments have two months to identify the cuts and the Council would work off those numbers in 2010.

8:49:14 Councilor Belden asked Sheriff Carter and Auditor Coverdale what difficulties this would put on departments. Sheriff Carter stated that he would not know until he sat down and looked at his budgets. Sheriff Carter asked if the monies found at hearings would apply to his 3% cut? Sheriff Carter stated that his budgets are about as lean as it can be. Sheriff Carter stated that the Sheriff Department would look at items. Councilor McKinney stated that the monies found would not be applied to this 3% request.

Auditor Coverdale stated that she would have to cut staff to comply with this 3% request.

Sheriff Carter stated that Elected Officials and Department heads have continued to do more with less, maybe it is time for the County to raise taxes, leverage (borrow against) our assets or sell assets.

Councilor McKinney stated that other options are to have Departments stop doing things: 1) Security in Judicial Center (\$300,000 a year); 2) Sheriff not to patrol annexed areas; 3) Savings made from item 2 could be reallocated to the jail and positions would not be filled and 4) County should tell cities and towns that the County will not take people in the jail.

9:02:32 Councilor Hiatt stated that the following cuts could be made: 1) no raises; and 2) employees picking up the 3% cost for PERF and Retirement. Councilor Beaver stated that another \$450,000 savings would be EMS in the outlying area. Councilor Hiatt stated that he would not cut services first. Councilor Carter and Councilor McKinney stated that some cost savings were made with insurance and sheriff pension being frozen at the 2009 level.

9:08:16 Councilor Carter moved to approve salary contracts for Clerk and Surveyor. Councilor Levine seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:09:19 Councilor Belden moved to approve part time hourly rate at \$12.50 per hour. Councilor McKinney seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:09:42 Councilor Beaver moved to approve mileage at federal standard rate for 2010. Councilor McKinney seconded motion. Motion carried 5-1. Councilor Hiatt against.

9:11:15 Councilor Beaver moved to approve Resolution 9-15-09-1 "Cumulative Courthouse Levy" equal to \$475,000 for 2009 pay 2010. Councilor McKinney seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:12:19 Councilor Belden moved to approve Resolution 9-15-09-2 "Maximum Levy Appeal". Councilor Hiatt seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:12:37 Councilor Beaver moved to approve 2010 Pay Scale(s). Councilor Hiatt seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:13:44 Councilor Hiatt moved to cut performance pay for 2010. This would be a \$578,323 savings for the County. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-3. Councilors McKinney, Beaver and Carter were against.

9:17:37 Councilor McKinney moved to approve the complete budget provided the changes are made with the sheriff pension plan staying at 2009 funding level. Councilor Beaver seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1. Councilor Hiatt against.

9:18:18 Councilor Beaver moved the following for a memo to be sent to all County Departments: 1) Departments that have revenue generating fund(s) utilize said funds to fullest potential; 2) Voluntarily cut 3% of 2010 budgets (cuts should be genuine and not something that the department will come back and request in 2010 ie: postage); and return this information to the county auditor by noon Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Councilor McKinney seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1. Councilor Hiatt against.

9:24:03 Councilor Hiatt moved to suspend rules and not read every line item in the Solid Waste Budget. Councilor Beaver seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:24:23 Councilor Carter moved to accept all 144 forms. Councilor Levine seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:24:54 Councilor Carter moved to approve the 2010 Solid Waste Budget. Councilor Beaver seconded motion. Councilor Belden moved to amend said motion and reduce the budget by \$200,000. Councilor Carter seconded the amendment. Amendment carried 6-0. Motion carried 6-0.

9:26:03 Councilor Beaver moved to approve part time hourly rate at \$12.50 per hour. Councilor Hiatt seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:26:35 Kim Riley, Assistant Director of Sheridan Library, was present for questions. Councilor Beaver moved to suspend rules and not read every line item in the Sheridan Library Budget. Councilor Hiatt seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:28:05 Councilor Beaver moved to adopt the 2010 Sheridan Library Budget. Councilor Belden seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:29:00 Councilor Belden moved to approve the unit budget and recommend that the unit stay within Hamilton County's 5.9% six year non-farm personal income for Carmel, Cicero, Delaware Township, Fishers and Noblesville City. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9:35:47 Councilor McKinney asked about the attached highlighted list. Auditor Coverdale stated that the list included elected officials, chief deputies, department heads and assistants who will not receive performance pay in 2010.

9:28:09 Councilor Levine announced that the Joint Retreat with the Board of Hamilton County Commissioners will be October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at Osprey Point. Councilor Levine stated that the agenda will include Council items first: 1) Fire Districts/EMS; 2) Post Retirement Benefits and Liability; 3) Take Home Vehicle Policy and 4) Layoff Directive.

Auditor Coverdale stated that the Commissioners have added security issues. Fred Swift, Commissioner Assistant, stated that Commissioner Holt added land acquisition.

9:47:48 Councilor Hiatt moved to adjourn. Councilor Levine seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Those present:  
Jeanette Kassabaum  
Robin M. Mills, Chief Deputy Auditor  
Jeff Rushforth, HCSW  
Jennifer Pickett, HCSW  
Kim Rauch, HCSW  
Dan Stevens, HCSD  
Mark Bowen, HCSD  
Kim Riley, Sheridan Public Library

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Judy Levine, President  
Hamilton County Council

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Dawn Coverdale, Auditor  
Council Secretary